

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

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1. (Currently Amended) Method A method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes comprising the steps of:

[[-]] determining ($E1$) an initial partitioning of the signal[[],];
[[-]] displaying ($E3, E4$) a representation of the signal and the previously determined signal partitioning[[],] at the same time;
[[-]] acquiring ($E7$) at least one partitioning modification parameter[[],] through an intervention by a user; and
[[-]] modifying ($E7$) the partitioning of the signal.

2. (Currently Amended) Division The method according to Claim 1, characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and said the at least one modification parameter is chosen from amongst a block height (H) and a block width (L).

3. (Currently Amended) Division The method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said which the at least one modification parameter makes it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2,
characterised in that which the modified partitioning of the signal is selected from a
predetermined set of partitionings.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2,
characterised in that it also includes further comprising the step of simulating [[(E42)]] the
coding ~~an~~ and decoding of the signal, ~~and~~ in that which the displayed representation of the
signal is the result of the step of simulating.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 5,
characterised in that which distortions in the representation of the signal are emphasized.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method A~~ method of dividing a digital signal
representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes comprising the steps of:
[[-]] determining (S1) at least one area of interest in the signal[[,]];
[[-]] determining (S20) an initial partitioning of the signal, including
partitioning areas[[,]]; and
[[-]] modifying (S22, S24, S26) the partitioning of the signal
according to said the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7,
characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal is modified so that said the at least
one area of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8,
characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal is modified so that the partitioning
areas are the smallest possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8,
characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the
signal, and in that the modification of the partitioning includes the modification (~~S22, S24,~~
~~S26~~) of at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height (H) and a block width
(L).

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8,
characterised in that which the modification of the partitioning includes a translation of the
partitioning with respect to the signal.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8,
characterised in that which the modification of the partitioning results in a modified
partitioning which is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method A~~ method of coding a digital signal
representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes including the division
method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

14. (Currently Amended) Device A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it has comprising:

[[-]] means (31) of for determining an initial partitioning of the signal[[],];

[[-]] means (310) of for displaying a representation of the signal and the previously determined signal partitioning[[],] at the same time;

[[-]] means (31) of for acquiring at least one partitioning modification parameter[[],] through an intervention by a user; and

[[-]] means (31) of for modifying the partitioning of the signal.

15. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 14, characterised in that which the determination means are adapted to form a partitioning of the signal which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and in that the acquisition means are adapted to consider said the at least one modification parameter from amongst a block height [[(H)]] and a block width [[(L)]].

16. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 14 or 15, characterised in that which the acquisition means are adapted to consider a modification parameter making it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

17. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 14 or 15, characterised in that which the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

18. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 14 or 15, characterised in that it also includes further comprising means [[of]] for simulating the coding ~~an~~ and decoding of the signal and in that which the displayed representation of the signal is the result of the means [[of]] for simulating.

19. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 18, characterised in that it is adapted to emphasize distortions in the representation of the signal.

20. (Currently Amended) Division The device [[(10)]] according to Claim 14 or 15, characterised in that which the determination, display, acquisition and modification means are incorporated in:

[[-]] a microprocessor (100);

[[-]] a read only memory (102) containing a program for processing the data[[,]]; and

[[-]] a random access memory (103) containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

21. (Currently Amended) Device A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it has comprising:

[[-]] means (31) of for determining at least one area of interest in the signal[[-]];

[[-]] means (32) of for determining an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas[[-]]; and

[[-]] means (32) of for modifying the partitioning of the signal according to said the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.

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22. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 21, characterised in that it is adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that said the at least one area of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

23. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that it is adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that the partitioning areas are as small as possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

24. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that which the means [[of]] for determining an initial partitioning are adapted to form a partitioning which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and in that the means [[of]] for modifying the partitioning are adapted to modify at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height [[(H)]] and a block width [[(L)]].

25. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that which the means [[of]] for modifying the partitioning are adapted to effect a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

26. (Currently Amended) Division The device according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that which the means [[of]] for modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

27. (Currently Amended) Division The device [[(10)]] according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that which the determination and modification means are incorporated in:

[[-]] a microprocessor (100);

[[-]] a read only memory [[(102)]] containing a program for processing the data[,]; and

[[-]] a random access memory [[(103)]] containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

28. (Currently Amended) Device (3) A device for coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes including the division device according to any one of Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

29. (Currently Amended) Digital A digital signal processing apparatus,
characterised in that it has including means adapted to implement the method according to
any one of Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

30. (Currently Amended) Digital A digital signal processing apparatus,
characterised in that it includes including the device according to any one of Claims 14, 15,
21, or 22.

31. (Currently Amended) Storage A storage medium storing a program for
implementing a method according to any one of ~~claims~~ Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

32. (Currently Amended) Storage The storage medium according to claim
31, characterised in that said which the storage medium is detachably mountable on a
device according to any one of ~~claims~~ Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

33. (Currently Amended) Storage The storage medium according to claim
32, characterised in that said which the storage medium is a floppy disk or a CD-ROM.